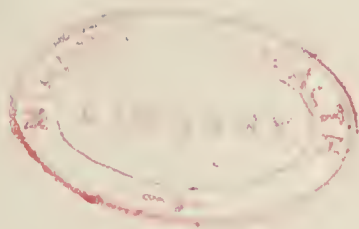


LIBRARY



BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT

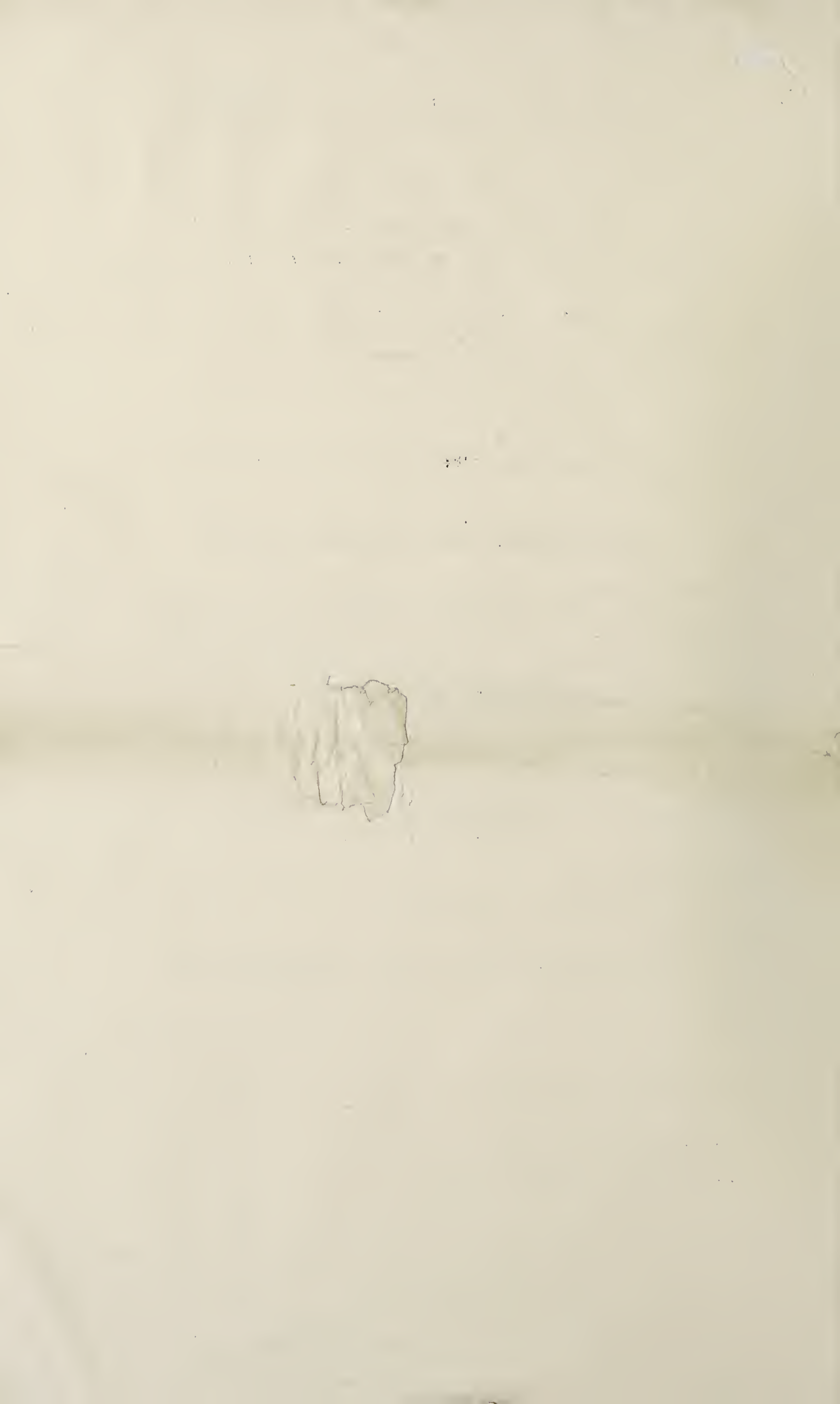
R E P O R T

- of the -

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

- for the year -

1 9 3 7.



BOROUGH OF BISHOP'S CASTLE URBAN DISTRICT.

R E P O R T of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1937.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health. M. Gepp, D.P.H. (S.W. Salop Combined Districts).

Sanitary Inspector. C. Smithurst. Certificate Royal Sanitary Inst. Certificate in Sanitary Science of Nottingham University College. Also holds office under the Council as:- Road Surveyor, Water and Sewerage Works Manager, and General Inspector.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres). 1867.

Registrar-General's estimate of resident population mid 1937. 1312.

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1937) according to Rate Books. 390.

Rateable Value. £5,408. Sum represented by a penny rate. £21.

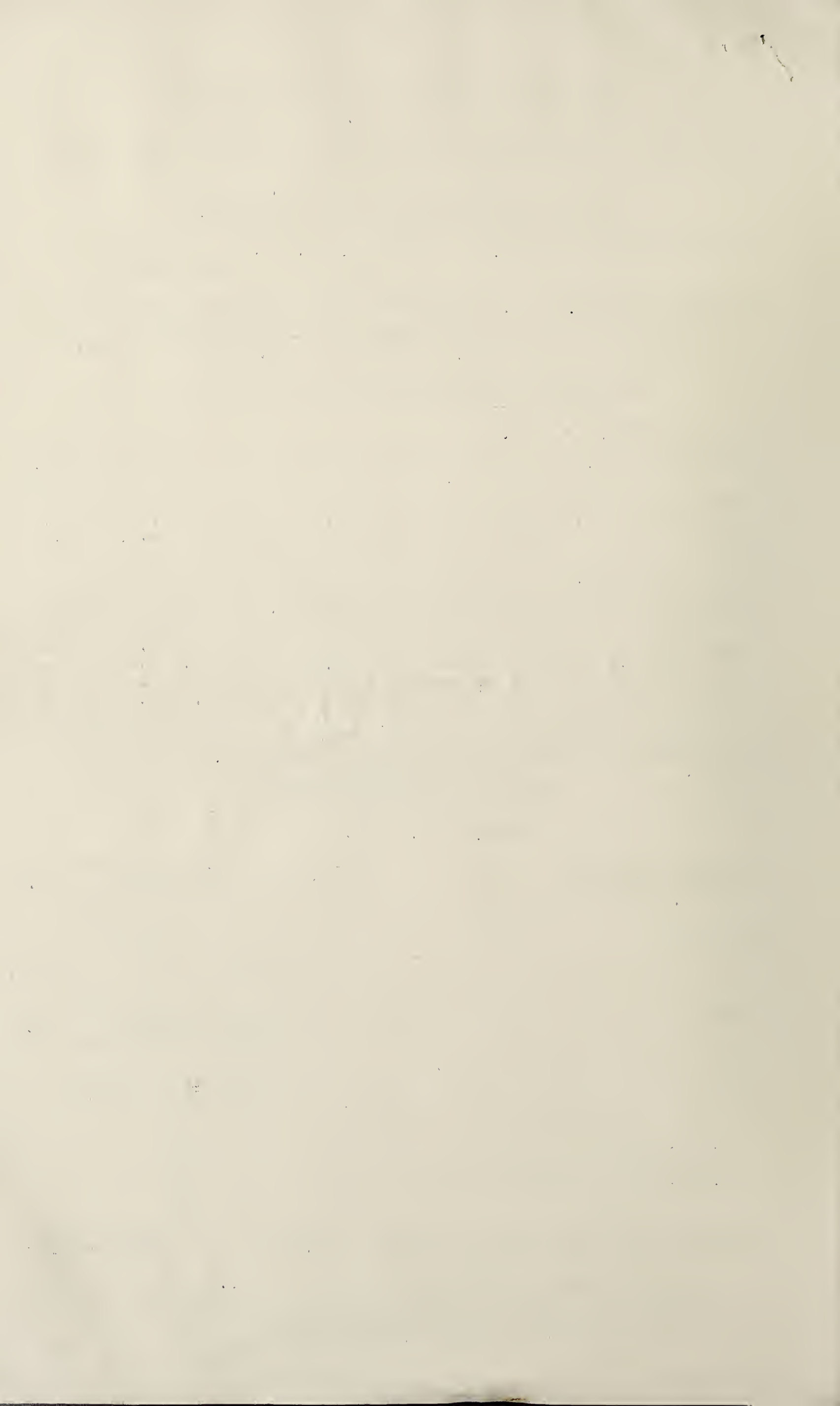
Social Conditions. The District consists of the old corporate market town of Bishop's Castle, surrounded by a considerable area of agricultural land. There are no industries other than agriculture in the District. Most of the houses are old, and a number of the older are of inferior structure and below modern standards of amenity, and are occupied in the main at low rentals within the means of occupiers of small incomes. The Council has built thirty-eight good artisan houses, but apart from these there has been practically no building of cottages for many years. The closing, or demolition, of the worst, and action taken for repair or reconditioning of other, house property is leading to a general improvement.

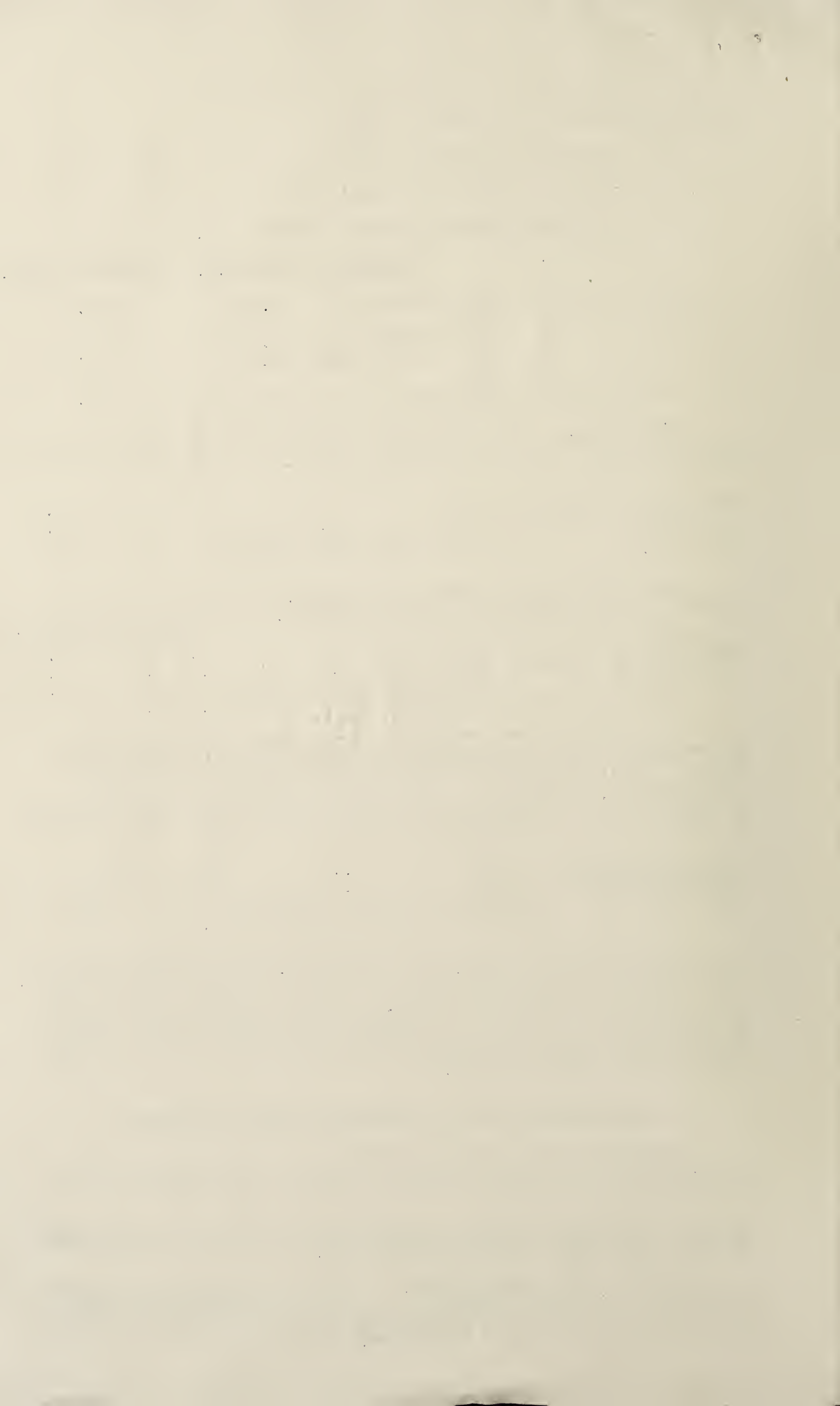
VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>		
Live Births { Legitimate	15	4	11	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	12.2
{ Illegitimate	1	-	1		
Stillbirths	-	-	-	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.	nil
Deaths	19	8	11	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population.	14.5

Deaths from puerperal causes:	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29. Puerperal sepsis	-	nil
No. 30. Other puerperal causes	-	nil
Total	-	nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age:-	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Rate.</u>
All infants per 1,000 live births	..	nil
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	-	nil
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	-	nil





SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply. The Council is still engaged in researches and plans for improving the supply as regards increasing the quantity and for providing additional storage. The Surveyor reports on the year's work as follows:-

"The water supply has been fairly well maintained during the year, but several times it was found necessary to restrict the supply from 9 p.m. until 7 a.m. It was also necessary to use the pump at Maesgwyn on each day in August and 6 days in October.

"Tests were made during the year of the yield of various springs, but they all failed to yield sufficient water to be of any use as an auxiliary supply.

"Much time was spent testing service pipes and many leakages were found and repaired.

"A fracture was found on the main near Maesgwyn and repaired.

"Three new and 3 old houses were connected to the water supply.

"One old private supply was reconditioned and a rotary pump fixed.

"One old well which had been filled was opened out and a pump fixed to be used for commercial purposes only."

The sand filters at The Cabin reservoir were cleaned when necessary.

The Council's Consulting Engineer formed the opinion, and reported to the Council, "That the Corporation would be well advised to consider further the possibilities of obtaining a supply of water for augmentation by pumping from the apparently prolific underground source to the south of the Town."

Having followed this problem of Water Supply for many years, and had experience of the many difficulties met with, I expressed support of this opinion, and advised the Council to obtain a report by an eminent geologist, and authority on the rock strata of this area. The Council decided to take this course towards the end of the year.

The Minister of Health, however, was of opinion that further remedial work in connection with the existing 4 inch gravitation main was the first measure to be undertaken, in order to restore it to approximately its proper discharging capacity, and he was prepared, in the special circumstances, to give favourable consideration to an application for a loan for that purpose only. The Council has resolved that plans and specifications be prepared accordingly, and application for loan sanction made.

No bacteriological or chemical analysis of the water was made during the year. The water is derived from uninhabited and uncultivated moorland and no routine bacteriological control has, so far, been considered necessary. I would, however, recommend that in future a sample of the water be taken regularly at six months interval, after passing through the sand filters, in order to keep under bacteriological observation the general condition of the supply and the efficiency of the filtration beds.

Streams. No instance of pollution came to notice.

Sewerage. The Surveyor reports:-

"The Sewerage Works have been quite satisfactory during the year and except for the usual routine work have required no attention.

"Three new houses and 4 old houses have been connected to the sewer. In the case of 8 other houses, 3 have had all new drains and the other 5 have had the drains reconstructed and amended."

The Disposal Works, of septic tanks and biological filters, which have now been in operation for a considerable number of years, have been unusually successful, in my experience, in giving the minimum of trouble and in turning out a consistently good effluent.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28929809>

Closet Accommodation. In the sewered area the system of water carriage is general, only some 7 or 8 privies remaining in use.

I am glad to note some progress in conversion of hand flushing of W.C's to tank flushing.

Scavenging. The Surveyor reports:-

"The house refuse collection is by means of lorry, and the contract for same is a yearly one.

"The Tip is situated a mile out of town and is a disused quarry.

"During the early part of the year we were troubled with a plague of rats, but these have been dealt with in a satisfactory manner.

"Disposal is by "Controlled tipping."

The following is an account furnished by the Sanitary Inspector, of Sanitary Work for the Year.

Number of houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	..	..	104
Number of legal notices sent	..	..	nil
Number of informal notices sent	..	..	18
Number of such notices complied with	..	..	10
Number of letters written	..	..	30

PARTICULARS OF SANITARY MATTERS REFERRED TO IN THE ABOVE NOTICES:-

(a) Houses to be cleansed after Infectious Disease	..	nil
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply	..	3
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	..	8
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	..	4
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	..	10
(f) Offensive accumulations of all kinds	..	1
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	..	2
(h) Houses overcrowded	..	nil

Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	..	-
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	..	-
Privies converted to water closets	..	-
Privies converted to earth closets	..	-
Plans for new houses passed	..	10
Houses connected to public water supply	..	6
Private wells reconstructed or improved	..	2
Houses connected to public sewerage	..	7
Lengths of new sewers laid	..	nil
Lengths of new water mains laid	..	nil

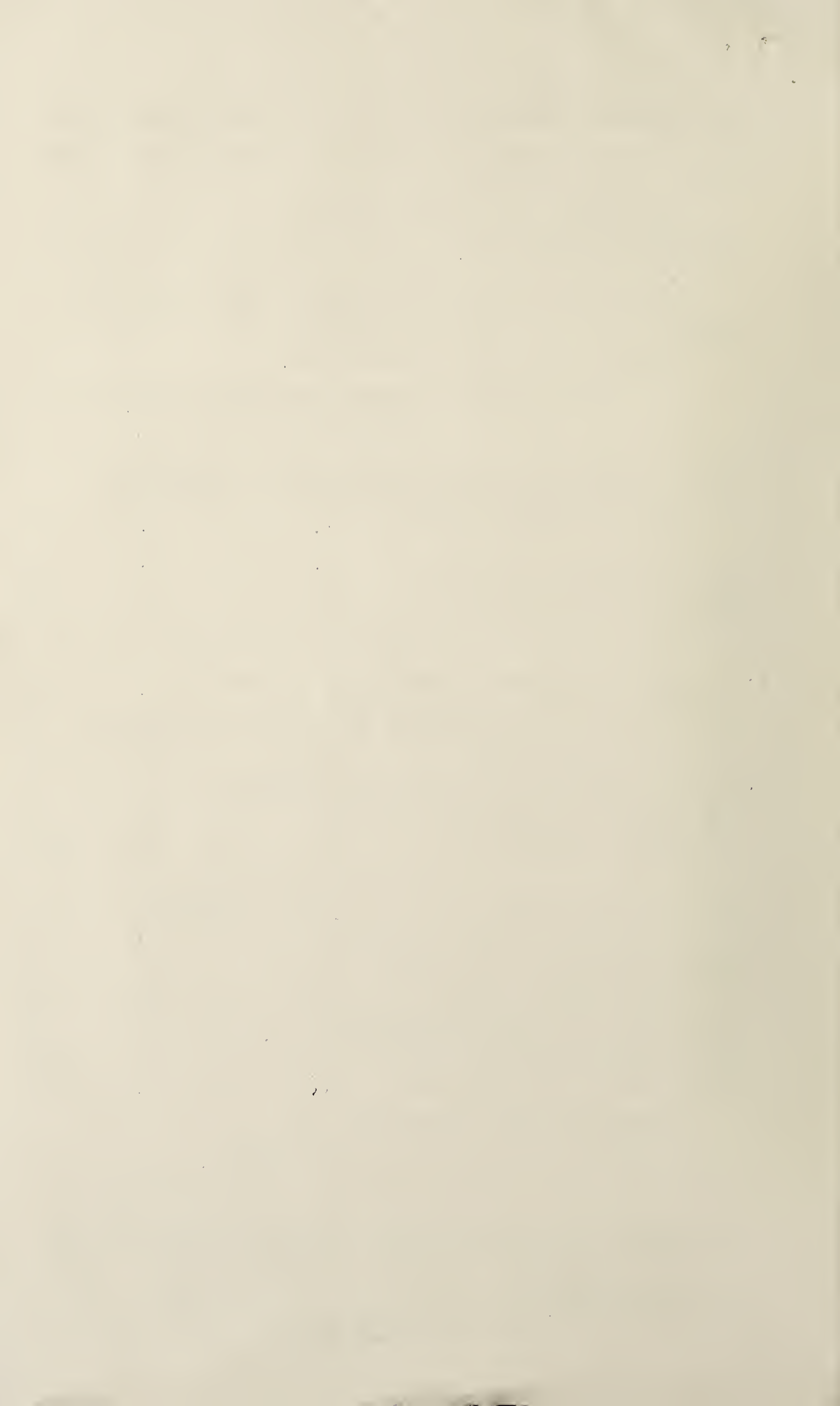
Proceedings before Magistrates: Nil.

C. SMITHURST.

Sanitary Inspector.

Shops. No action was taken relating to ventilation or to sanitary conveniences under the provisions of the Shops Act 1934.

Smoke Abatement. No instances of nuisance arose. There are no factories.



Swimming Baths and Pools. There are none.

Eradication of bed bugs. No houses have been found to be infested. No method has, so far, been adopted, or found necessary, for ensuring the freedom from vermin of belongings of tenants before removal to Council houses. The desirability of supervision in all cases of removal should be borne in mind as a routine measure.

Schools. The two elementary schools have the town water laid on and are drained to the sewers. The County Council Secondary School is outside the sewered area and has septic tank disposal. The sanitary condition of the schools is good.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:-
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .. 104
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 210
 - (2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. 8
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .. 8
 - (3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. 15
 - (4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation .. 18
2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers .. 10
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:-
 - (a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10, and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners .. nil
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners .. nil
 - (b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:
 - (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied .. nil
 - (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:-
 - (a) By owners .. nil
 - (b) By local authority in default of owners .. nil
 - (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. 5
 - (b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. 1
 - (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
 - (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made .. nil
 - (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit .. nil

Housing Act 1936 - Part IV - Overcrowding:-

- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year .. nil
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein .. -
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein .. -
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year .. nil
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. nil
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases -
- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding. nil

Housing Consolidated Amendment Regulations.

- (3) The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the service of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders;
(a) nil
(b) 15
- (7) The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of Section 19 of the Housing Act, 1930; .. 9

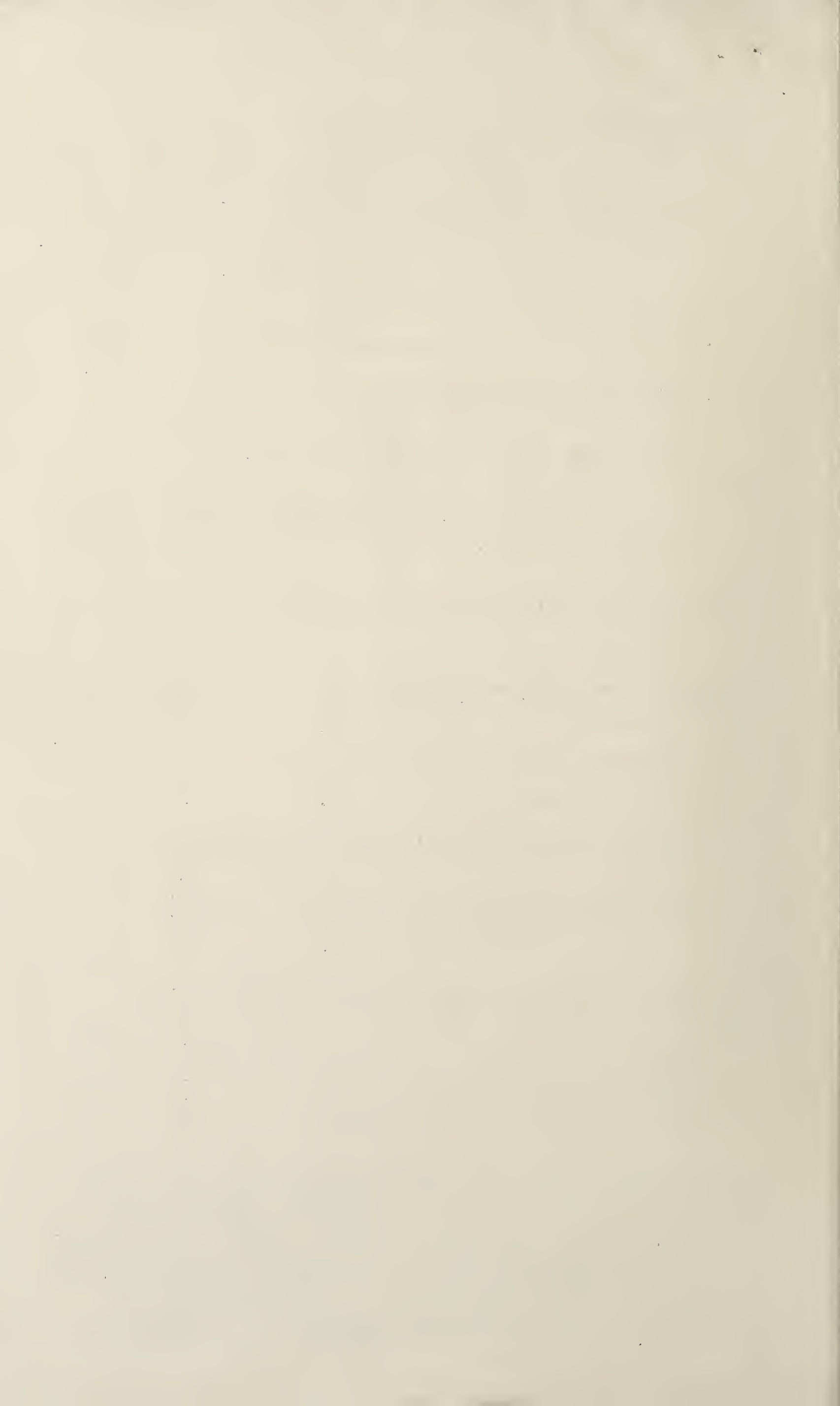
The fifteen representations, of individual houses considered by the Sanitary Inspector and myself to be unfit for habitation were under the Council's consideration during the year, with the following results:-

	<u>Houses.</u>
Orders for demolition made as to	5
Closing Order made as to	1
Sanction given to re-conditioning, with grant made by the Council under the Housing (Rural Workers) Act 1926	2
Undertaking by owner, to repair to the satisfaction of the Council, accepted	7
Total	<u>15</u>

With respect to the repairs carried out by owners, the Surveyor notes:-

	<u>No.</u>
Handflushed W.C's provided with flushing tanks ..	7
Sinks provided	5
Proper food stores provided	7
Insanitary yards paved with concrete	4
Insanitary yard paved with tar-mac	1

While the worst of the old houses have been dealt with by Closing or Demolition Orders, good and steady progress is being made by the Inspector in obtaining repair and improvement of houses, defective more or less in structural condition and in convenience, with the result of achieving a measure of raising the standard of much old property without prejudicially changing the character and appearance of a picturesque old market town. Continued attention will be necessary to bring about further improvement in this respect, and some further action for the replacement of very old and decayed houses may be required from time to time.



No houses were built by the Council during the year. Plans were prepared, and prices obtained, for the building of eight non-parlour type houses with 3 bedrooms, and for two with 2 bedrooms. These, together with the 38 houses already built and owned by the Council, form a very useful contribution to the housing problem, constituting some 12½ per cent of the houses in the Borough.

Four houses were built by private persons during the year.

Housing Rural Workers Act 1926.

No. of houses for which grants were made during the year	..	4
No. of houses in which improvements were completed during the year	..	Nil
No. still in hand at end of year	..	4
Total number of houses completed since 1926 under the Act or in hand	..	10

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Inspection of Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops for the Year.

Number of Cowkeepers and Milksellers on Register	Wholesalers	2
	Retailers	14
	Total	16
Number of premises - cowsheds	..	16
dairies	..	22
milkshops	..	-
Total number of premises registered	..	22
Number of inspections	..	32
Defects found (1) in cowsheds:		
(a) floor or cubic space	..	-
(b) ventilation	..	1
(c) lighting	..	1
(d) structure of floor	..	2
(e) drainage	..	1
(f) cleanliness	..	5
(2) in surroundings of cowsheds	..	-
(3) in sanitary condition of drains	..	-
(4) in sanitary condition of milkshops	..	-
(5) in water supply	..	-
Number of notices - verbal and written	..	5
Number of these notices complied with	..	5
Number of defects found and not yet remedied	..	-
Number of premises reconstructed or radically improved during the year	..	1

Number of Tuberculin Tested (Certified) milk sellers in District					
			at end of year		Nil
"	"	Tuberculin Tested	"	"	Nil
"	"	Pasteurised	"	"	Nil
"	"	Accredited	"	"	Nil

C. SMITHURST.

Meat and Other Foods. There are six slaughterhouses on the Register including one not in present use. Inspection is made at time of slaughter when possible.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle, excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed (approx.) ..	200	-	23	1120	338
Number inspected ..	No record was kept.				
All diseases except Tuberculosis. Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	1	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	3	-	1	-	2
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis ..					
Tuberculosis only. Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis					

Bakehouses. There are 3 on the Register. Cleansing was found necessary in one case and was done on request.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is supplied by the District Council, free of cost to cases of the poorer class, through a local chemist who supplies medical men upon request. Antitoxin is in general use in all but very slight cases. In accordance with the recommendations of the Ministry of Health's Memorandum of July, 1922, the contracting chemist was instructed to hold and supply antitoxin in phials of 8,000 units for treatment, and of 500 units for protective use.

Diphtheria Immunisation. In 1936 the Council adopted a scheme, sanctioned by the Ministry of Health, whereby parents of the poorer class may, upon their request, obtain active immunisation of their children, between the ages of one and sixteen years, at the public cost. So far no request has been received.

Disinfection. The Council is provided, jointly with the Clun R.D.C., with a 'Thresh' Emergency Steam Disinfector. The apparatus is housed at the Workhouse.

House disinfection is carried out by the Inspector by means of formalin spray, or vapor lamps.

No case of Diphtheria came to light.

One case of Scarlet fever was notified in the last week of the year, the infection having been contracted outside the District apparently. The case was home nursed and no spread of infection occurred.

Notifiable Diseases during the Year.

Disease	Total cases notified	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Small-pox	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	1	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Enteric fever (including Paratyphoid)	-	-	-
Puerperal fever	-	-	-
Puerperal pyrexia	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	1

Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Cases			Vision un-impaired	Vision im-paired	Total Blindness	Deaths
	Notified	Treated					
		At home	In hospital				
Nil	-	-	-	-	-	-	

Tuberculosis

Age-Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25--	4	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
35--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55--	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	-

Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925. No action was taken or found necessary, as to tuberculous employees in the milk trade.

Public Health Act, 1925, Section 62. No action was necessary for application for an order for compulsory removal to hospital.

M. GEPP.

Medical Officer of Health.

Shrewsbury.
19th May, 1938.

